

CLAIMED INVENTION

Dependent claim 3 is amended into independent form, and claims 12 and 13 are amended providing a method and a computer readable recitation of amended claim 3.

Further, dependent claims 9 and 11 are amended into independent form.

In contrast to Yao and Asamizuya, the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 3, 12 and 13, using the recitation of claim 3 as an example, comprises:

a distribution control unit controlling an information distribution device regarding a distribution of a content as real-time reproducible stream information from the distribution device to a receiving device;

...

wherein the distribution schedule information comprises information on a time and a date to start and end the distribution of the content, and the distribution control unit controls the information distribution device based on the stored distribution schedule information and the reproduction control unit controls the receiving device based on the stored distribution schedule information (emphasis added).

See page 39, line 16 through page 40, line 19; and FIG. 9 of the Application.

Further, in contrast to Yao and Asamizuya, the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 9 and 11, using the recitation of claim 9 as an example, comprises:

...

a memory unit storing importance level information of each stream information, wherein the reproduction control unit controls the receiving device to reproduce a higher priority stream information over other stream information based on the stored importance level information (emphasis added).

Yao

Regarding amended independent claims 3, 12 and 13, the Examiner asserts that Yao, in column 3, lines 1-20 and column 11, lines 15-38, discloses the present invention's feature of a memory unit which stores a schedule information on a control schedule of said distribution control unit and a control schedule of said reproduction control unit, wherein said distribution control unit controls said information distribution device based on the schedule information and said reproduction control unit controls said receiving device based on the schedule information (page 3, item 4 of the Office Action). However, Yao relates to a real time stream server capable of realizing a supply of a plurality of real-time data with different data rates by a scheduling

scheme using constant time-slot interval and transfer start timing period (Yao, Abstract). In particular, Yao's schedule information is just a schedule or order for accessing the time-slots allocated to disk access (i.e., each real time stream data is read out from a buffer memory and transferred to the client through a network, according to an appropriately scheduled transfer start timing for each unit of stream). See, Yao, column 9, lines 44-57; column 11, lines 15-38; FIG. 6, and Abstract.

However, amended independent claim 3 recites "distribution schedule information comprises information on a time and a date to start and end the distribution of the content." Further, the claimed present invention provides a "distribution control unit controls the information distribution device based on the stored distribution schedule information and the reproduction control unit controls the receiving device based on the stored distribution schedule information" (claim 3). Therefore, the "distribution schedule information" is schedule information on a distribution schedule of a content, which includes information on a time and a date for starting and ending the distribution of the content. The present invention differs from Yao, because the present invention is concerned with a content distribution, whereas Yao is concerned with transferring data units (data block) of the content (i.e., data units of an information stream).

Asamizuya

Regarding rejection of amended independent claims 9 and 11, the Examiner asserts that Asamizuya, in column 10, lines 21-49, discloses the present invention's patentably distinguishing feature of storing and distributing stream information according to importance level information (page 5, item 9 of the Office Action). However, Asamizuya, column 10, lines 21-49, does not provide such a description or relate to the concept of "importance level information of each stream information." In particular, "staggered playback" as disclosed in column 10, lines 33-34 is not same as prioritized content reproduction. In contrast to Asamizuya, claims 9 and 11 recite: "the reproduction control unit controls the receiving device to reproduce a higher priority stream information over other stream information based on the stored importance level information" (emphasis added).

Regarding rejection of dependent claims 4 and 5, the Examiner asserts that Asamizuya, in column 10, lines 5-12 and column 9, lines 30-49, discloses the present invention's patentably distinguishing feature of a plurality of receiving devices, a reproduction control unit carrying out an identical control to each receiving device, and prohibiting or permitting an external control relating to a reproduction at the receiving devices (pages 4-5, items 5 and 6 of the Office Action).

However, Asamizuya, column 10, lines 5-12 and column 9, lines 30-49, do not provide such a description or relate to the concept in which the system "prohibits" or "permits," execution of "an external control relating to a reproduction at said receiving devices." The Asamizuya description referred to by the Examiner relates to FIG. 2, which is the near-video-on-demand (NVOD) compilation unit 100 controlling edit and storage of video information (column 10, lines 4-6). Asamizuya's NVOD 100 does not control, for example, prohibit or permit, "an external control relating to a reproduction at the receiving devices."

CONCLUSION

Dependent claims 2, 4-7 (depending from claim 3) recite patentably distinguishing features of their own, and, further, are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependencies from independent claim 3.


In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-7, 9, 11, and 12-13 and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 8, 9, and 14 are **CANCELED**.

Claims 2-7, 9, 11, and 12-13 are **AMENDED** as follows.

1. (CANCELED)

2. (ONCE AMENDED) The information distribution/reproduction control apparatus according to claim [1]3, further comprising:

a change-over unit to be manipulated by an operator for changing over the control of the reproduction control unit to other control,

wherein said reproduction control unit controls said receiving device according to the control [changed-over]changed over by said change-over unit.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) [The]An information distribution/reproduction control apparatus [according to claim 1, further], comprising:

a distribution control unit controlling an information distribution device regarding a distribution of a content as real-time reproducible stream information from the distribution device to a receiving device;

a reproduction control unit controlling the receiving device regarding a real-time reproduction of the stream information; and

a memory unit [which stores]storing a distribution schedule information [on a control schedule of said]of the distribution control unit and [a control schedule of said]the reproduction control unit,

wherein the distribution schedule information comprises information on a time and a date to start and end the distribution of the content, and the [said] distribution control unit controls [said]the information distribution device based on the stored distribution schedule information[,]
and [said]the reproduction control unit controls [said]the receiving device based on the stored distribution schedule information [stored in said memory unit].

4. (ONCE AMENDED) The information distribution/reproduction control apparatus according to claim [1]3, wherein a plurality of said receiving devices are provided, and said reproduction control unit carries out an identical control to each [of said] receiving

[devices]device and prohibits an execution of an external control relating to a reproduction at said receiving devices.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) The information distribution/reproduction control apparatus according to claim [1]3, wherein a plurality of said receiving devices are provided, and said reproduction control unit carries out an identical control to each [of said] receiving [devices]device and permits an execution of an external control relating to a reproduction at said receiving devices.

6. (ONCE AMENDED) [An]The information distribution/reproduction control apparatus [comprising]according to claim 3, further comprising:

a distribution control unit which controls an information distribution device to distribute real-time reproducible stream information to the distribution control unit itself;]

an editing unit [which] receiving the content as the real-time reproducible stream information from the information distribution device, and editing and distributing the received real-time reproducible stream information [distributes edited stream information [that is the stream information which has been edited, to a receiving device; and a], wherein the reproduction control unit [which] controls [said]the receiving device[,] regarding [a]the real-time reproduction of the edited stream information.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) [An]The information distribution/reproduction control apparatus [comprising:]according to claim 3, wherein [a distribution control unit which controls an]the information distribution device [to distribute edited stream information that is]edits and distributes the real-time reproducible stream information [which has been edited, to a receiving device;] and [a]the reproduction control unit [which] controls [said]the receiving device, regarding [a]the real-time reproduction of the edited stream information.

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (ONCE AMENDED) An information distribution/reproduction control apparatus [according to claim 8, further], comprising:

a distribution control unit controlling a plurality of information distribution devices regarding a distribution of stream information including moving picture data that can be reproduced in real time to a receiving device;

a reproduction control unit controlling the receiving device regarding a display method relating to a real-time reproduction of a plurality of the stream information; and

a memory unit [which stores] storing importance level information [on the importance level] of each [of the plurality of] stream information, wherein [said] the reproduction control unit controls [said] the receiving device [so as] to reproduce [the] a higher priority stream information [of higher level of importance with higher priority] over [the rest of the] other stream information based on the stored importance level information [stored in said memory unit].

10. (CANCELLED)

11. (ONCE AMENDED) An information distribution/reproduction control apparatus, [according to claim 10, further] comprising:

a distribution control unit controlling a plurality of information distribution devices regarding a distribution of stream information including moving picture data and voice data that can be reproduced in real time to a receiving device;

a reproduction control unit controlling the receiving device regarding a display method of the moving picture and a reproduction method of the voice relating to a real-time reproduction of a plurality of the stream information; and

a memory unit [which stores] storing importance level information [on the importance level] of each [of the plurality of] stream information, wherein [said] the reproduction control unit controls [said] the receiving device [so as] to reproduce [the] a higher priority stream information [of higher level of importance with higher priority] over [the rest of the] other stream information based on the stored importance level information [stored in said memory unit].

12. (ONCE AMENDED) An information distribution/reproduction control method comprising [the steps of]:

storing a distribution schedule information comprising a time and a date for starting and ending distribution of a content as real-time reproducible stream information;

controlling an information distribution device based on the distribution schedule information, regarding [a] the distribution of the content [stream information that can be reproduced in real time] to a receiving device; and

controlling [said] the receiving device based on the distribution schedule information, regarding a real-time reproduction of the stream information.

13. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium recorded with an information distribution/reproduction control program for making a computer execute [the steps of] a process comprising:

storing a distribution schedule information comprising a time and a date for starting and ending distribution of a content as real-time reproducible stream information;

controlling an information distribution device based on the distribution schedule information, regarding a distribution of the content [stream information that can be reproduced in real time] to a receiving device; and

controlling [said] the receiving device based on the distribution schedule information, regarding a real-time reproduction of the stream information.

14. (CANCELLED)